



Newsletter n.11 - January 2006

European Region News

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2006 ER-WCPT General Meeting

The European Region of WCPT would like to remind all the Member Organisations of its invitation to participate in the General Meeting of the European Region 2006, to be held on 25-27 May 2006 in Šibenik, Croatia.

A Workshop on Common Platforms and Legislation-Regulation will be held for the Member Organisations of the European Region WCPT on 24 May 2006 at the same venue. According to the charter 7.4 delegates from each Member Organisations may send no more than three delegates. Motions, as well as Nominations for Chairman, Treasurer and Regional Representative and Alternate Members must be received by the General Secretary by 6 February 2006. Remember that as was agreed at the General Meeting in Cyprus it will only be possible to present nominations during the General Meeting if no nominations have been received before.

Detailed information on accommodation, the agenda, registration forms and other supporting documents are published on the ER-WCPT website.

Please note that the nearest airport to Šibenik is Split, Croatia (SPU) situated approximately 55 km from the venue hotel. Organization of transport from the airport to the hotel will be arranged by the Croatian Association. Please notice that at this time the holiday season starts. To get tickets for a reasonable price you should book your flights soon. Further information: <http://www.physio-europe.org>

Common Platform task Force 2nd Meeting

The second meeting of the Common Platform Task Force took place on 11-13 November 2005 in London. At that meeting a time-plan was agreed to develop the three steps necessary to achieve a Common Platform for physiotherapists and work was focused on the first step in establishing a platform: the inventory on the existing Physiotherapy situations in the different E.U. Member States. The next Task Force meeting will take place on 23-24 March 2006, in Lisbon, Portugal.

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**2006 ER-WCPT Conference on
Clinical Guidelines**

The European Region of WCPT would like to invite all the Member Organisations to participate in the conference on Clinical Guideline Development and Implementation to learn and to exchange information to be held on 10-11 November 2006 in Amsterdam, Netherlands

The objectives for the conference session are:

1. To strengthen the existing network on Clinical Guidelines developers in the ER-WCPT
2. To facilitate Member Organisations involvement in Multi-disciplinary guideline development within their country which would expand the number of physiotherapists involved in Multi-disciplinary Clinical Guidelines development.
3. To obtain information from the Member Organisations to facilitate the development of strategies for the implementation of evidence based Clinical Guidelines.

After the presentations, there would be workshops led by the speakers. In this way, Member Organisations will choose a workshop according to their different situation.

Detailed information on accommodation, the agenda and other supporting documents will be provided in the near future to the Member Organisations

Lifelong Learning

On 10 November 2005, the EU Commission adopted a proposal for a Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council on key competences for lifelong learning. The

proposal aims to encourage and facilitate national reforms by providing, for the first time at European level, a reference tool on key competences that all citizens should have for a successful life in a knowledge society.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleaseAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/416&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EU Open Forum 2005

As was announced in Newsletter 10, Health challenges and future strategy was the theme of the Open Health Forum 2005. The General Secretary attended the conference and exhibition that took place in Brussels on 7-8 November 2005. Now the Commission has published online all the relevant documents related to the last annual Open Health Forum held by the DG Health and Consumer Protection on 7-8 November 2005.

Further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_oerview/health_forum/open_2005/contributions_en.htm

Tackling Health Inequalities Summit

The UK Presidency summit "Tackling Health Inequalities: Governing for Health", was held on 17-18 October 2005, in London. It brought together European and International knowledge to encourage the countries all over Europe to develop effective strategies and policies to help reducing the health gap. Liz Carrington, Member of the EU WG attended the conference on behalf of the ER-WCPT.

For further information:

<http://www.eu2005.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/S>

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<http://www.regteam.com/page/cid=1107293391098&a=KArticle&aid=1129039975130>

Patient Safety Summit

On 28-30 November 2005 the Patient Safety Summit took place in London hosted by the UK Presidency of the EU. The aim of the conference was to identify the patient safety challenge and to stress the need to support action. Among other issues, the summit highlighted the importance of patient involvement and explored the research conducted to date on patient safety. It also addressed the question of how education and training can influence future thinking on patient safety. Participants in the Summit had the opportunity to share their opinions and experience, to network with presenters and fellow colleagues through question and answer sessions and to participate in interactive workshops.

Further information:

www.regteam.com/patientsafetysummit/en/

Update - 1995 Helsingborg Declaration on Stroke

The ER-WCPT has been contacted to update the 1995 Helsingborg Declaration on Stroke and to attend the meeting that will take place in March 2006, in the Concert Hall (Konserthuset) in central Helsingborg, Sweden. The MOs has been asked to review the declaration and send their comments to the secretariat.

The Executive Committee appointed Sigrún Knútsdóttir to attend the meeting on behalf of the Region since the first works on Declaration on Stroke started in Iceland and she was involved and the Swedish Association will be contacted to invite them to attend the meeting since the meeting will take place in Sweden.

With the comments received from the MOs, Sigrún Knútsdóttir, will prepare a proposal and also will evaluate the draft of the Updated declaration.

Service Directive

On 22 November 2005, the Parliament's Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection has adopted a report on the Directive on Services in the Internal Market maintaining the disputed country-of-origin principle. Divisions remain in the European Parliament over the EU Service Directive after amendments aimed at protecting workers' rights were rejected. The good news is that MEPs voted to exclude health from the scope of the Service Directive. ER-WCPT has long been advocating health services not to be regulated by this directive.

Background: The Directive on Services in the Internal Market was presented by the Prodi Commission in January 2004 as one of the key elements of the Lisbon reform agenda. Then known as the 'Bolkestein Directive', it aimed at breaking down legal and administrative barriers to trade in services across the EU.

The Commission says the proposed directive would guarantee service providers more legal certainty if they want to exercise two fundamental freedoms (freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services) enshrined in the EC Treaty. It argues that this will boost European competitiveness as the services sector accounts for over 70% of jobs in the EU.

Critics, however, have attacked the directive for leading to 'social dumping', and they have argued that services of general interest like healthcare should be excluded from

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the scope of the directive. These fears in respect to the Directive were partly blamed for the defeat of the European Constitution, in particular in the French referendum on 29 May 2005.

In the European Parliament, MEP Evelyne Gebhardt (PSE, Germany) is the rapporteur for the Internal Market Committee, the lead committee among the ten that participated in the legislative process. During the vote on 22 November 2005, MEPs had almost 1,000 pages of drafts, reports, amendments and voting lists in front of them.

MEPs have watered down the Commission's draft less than the rapporteur had wanted. They supported the Commission's objective of establishing an internal market for services and voted for only a few of the safeguards Evelyne Gebhardt wanted to have introduced.

'Country of origin' principle: Service providers could, temporarily, be subject to the laws of their country of origin rather than of the country where the service is provided. They could thus test a new market without having to register with the authorities. MEPs voted to keep the country of origin principle, which is one of the most controversial parts of the directive, but to water it down to protect welfare and environmental standards.

Scope: The most disputed issue was whether services of general interest - meaning those considered as essential, such as healthcare, childcare, garbage disposal, traffic systems etc. - should be included in the scope of the directive. MEPs voted not to remove services of general interest from the directive's scope as such, but introduced limitations to exclude certain services like health care, social security, public services

such as transport and water, broadcasting, banking and gambling from the law.

The vote in the plenary is tabled for the week of 16-19 January 2006 in principle.

Further information:

http://www.europarl.eu.int/news/expert/infopress_page/056-2690-326-11-47-909-20051118IPR02599-22-11-2005-2005--false/default_es.htm

The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010

On January 13th 2000, the Bone and Joint Decade was formally launched at the headquarters of the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The goal of the Bone and Joint Decade is to improve the health-related quality of life for people with musculoskeletal disorders throughout the world. These disorders are the most notorious and common causes of severe long-term pain and physical disability, affecting hundreds of millions of people across the world. The Decade aims to raise awareness and promote positive actions to combat the suffering and costs to society associated with musculoskeletal disorders such as joint diseases, osteoporosis, spinal disorders, severe trauma to the extremities and crippling diseases and deformities in children.

The goal will be achieved by:

- Raising awareness of the growing burden of musculoskeletal conditions on society.
- Empowering patients to participate in their own care.
- Promoting cost-effective prevention and treatment.

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• Advancing understanding of musculoskeletal conditions through research to improve prevention and treatment.

No one single organisation alone can accomplish the desired benefits for the patient or his or her family. The Decade is a multi-disciplinary, global campaign that will implement and promote initiatives in all parts of the world. These will be developed in partnership with appropriate patient, professional and scientific organisations, companies, healthcare providers, governments and non-government organisations in consultation with global and regional stakeholders.

All the goals effects Physiotherapy. It is highly important for us as a professional group involved in treating musculoskeletal disorders to be a member of the National Action Network to meet with national governments and public health authorities to seek their endorsement and continuous support to recognize, document and remedy the burdens of musculoskeletal disorders.

BJD Annual Report 2005

Our 2005 Annual Report highlighting events and achievements over the last year, as well as spotlighting several Networks around the globe which have made strides in improving musculoskeletal care locally, has been published. The online version is available at:

<http://www.bjdonline.org/default.aspx?contId=1288>

BJD Action Week 2005

The BJD Action Week took place during October 12 – 20. For information on the extensive activities

around the world, please find a press release at

<http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/default.aspx?contId=1171>

Are you interested to join the BJD and their campaign on national level?

Do you know who the lead in your country is? If you do not know find out and get involved.

Further information: **The Bone and Joint Decade Secretariat**

Phone: +46 46 17 71 61 Fax: +46 46 17 71 67 E-mail: bjd@ort.lu.se

Health and Consumer Protection Programme 2007 – 2013

The Commission had adopted an EU Public Health and Consumer Protection programme on 6 April 2005, within the framework of the draft 2007-2013 Financial Perspectives. The proposed Programme combined and extended the current EU Public Health Programme and the current financing programme in support of EU consumer policy.

Common Actions: The Programme included plans to improve Health and Consumer Protection information, strengthen the role of Health and Consumer organisations in the EU, further develop consultation mechanisms and link Health and Consumer policy more closely to other policy areas.

Health actions: The three strands of the existing Public Health Programme – gathering and providing information, monitoring threats and tackling key health determinants – had been reinforced.

Three new strands – delivering an efficient response to health threats, helping to prevent diseases, and fostering co-operation between health

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systems – had been created and there would be a particular focus on bridging health inequalities, addressing ageing and children's health.

The EU WG will study this programme to find if any recommendations could be linked to the ER-WCPT Health Policy or should be a part of the recommended activities for the period 2006-2008.

2006, European Year for Workers' Mobility

2006 has been designated the European Year for Workers' Mobility by the European Commission. The European Year of Workers' Mobility is organised to coincide with several legislative or non-legislative initiatives on the political agenda at EU level. Important decisions are expected regarding the transitional arrangements for free movement of people in the enlarged EU, and the follow-up to the Skills and Mobility Action Plan. A new web portal on job vacancies across Europe will be launched in 2006. Progress is expected on the proposal for a Directive on improving the portability of pension rights as well as the implementation of the European Health Insurance Card.

Further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/workersmobility2006/index_en.htm

Austrian Presidency of the EU - Priorities

The Austrian Presidency of the EU started on 1 January for a period of six months till 31 June 2006.

Regarding the health field, Austria plans to continue the work on dossiers already under discussion in the Council's relevant working groups:

- Health and Consumer Programme

- Two proposals on the Nutrition and Health Claims made on Foods and the Addition of Vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to food

- Regulation establishing a European Institute for Gender Equality

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on medicinal products for paediatric use.

- Communication on HIV/AIDS (expected at the end of 2005)

- Legislation on human tissue and cells

- Revision of the Medical Devices Directive

- Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)

The Presidency is prepared to start work on expected Communications or Recommendations from the Commission to be forwarded during the 1st half of 2006:

- Alcohol Strategy
- Recommendations on Alcohol, Children and Adolescents
- Communication on a Pandemic Preparedness Planning
- Communication on injury prevention and product safety
- Recommendation on hospital-related infections

Austria's own initiatives will comprise diabetes (conference at expert level in Vienna) and women's health. Furthermore a Ministerial Conference on Harmful Traditional Practices in Brussels will take place - more linked

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to human rights than to Public Health but anyway worth mentioning here.

Commission adopts Green Paper on Mental Health

The European Commission has adopted a Green Paper on Mental Health, designed to launch a public consultation on how to better tackle mental illness which now affects over one in four adults in the EU.

Depression and anxiety disorders are the most common mental problems experienced and studies have estimated that by 2020 depression will be the highest ranking cause of disease in the developed world. Mental illness is currently responsible for the majority of the annual 58,000 deaths by suicide - more than the number of Europeans who die from motor vehicle traffic accidents.

Moreover, mental health levels can have a significant influence on the economic and social welfare of society. Mental ill health costs the EU 3-4 percent of its GDP through lost productivity and additional burdens on sectors such as health, education and justice.

The Green Paper on Mental Health proposes three main areas for action at EU level. Firstly, it foresees opening up a dialogue with Member States to agree on an action plan on mental

health. This action plan should be put forward in 2006. Secondly, the Green Paper proposes launching an EU Platform on Mental Health, which would bring together a wide range of stakeholders to look at how to integrate mental health into different sectors and EU policies.

The Platform would also consider how to develop ethical considerations such as the fundamental rights of mental illness sufferers. Finally, the document proposes building up mental health information resources at EU level, including monitoring trends, collecting data and identifying best practice.

The proposals outlined in the Green Paper are part of the Commission's follow-up to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Ministerial Conference on Mental Health, held in Helsinki in January 2005, where the 52 Member States of the WHO European Region and the European Commission endorsed the Mental Health Declaration and Action Plan for Europe.

Further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental_health_en.htm

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